

A Lame Man is Healed

(Acts 3:1-19)

Introduction

Today we are going to talk about a 40-year-old man that had been lame from birth. What do you think life was like for this poor lame man? (He couldn't do much for himself; he couldn't get up and move around on his own. As a boy, he couldn't run and jump and play with the other boys.) How is it possible for a disabled man to survive? (He'd have to depend totally on his friends to help him.)

What would your life be like if you couldn't walk? What would your social life be like? How would things be different for you economically?

It was hard for this lame man to find work to support himself so he turned to begging. Have you ever seen homeless people alongside the road, begging? Have you ever stopped to give them something? Or, do you just drive by? How does it make you feel?

In what way do you think a person without the Lord is like a lame person? [Teacher, discuss how he was stuck in his situation and unable to heal himself. Without Christ a person is disabled, too, and unable to save himself; hopeless.]

Opening Prayer

Father, open our spiritual eyes and ears this morning to hear Your voice through this lesson. We want to learn how to live our lives in a way that is pleasing to You. Guide our thoughts and our words as we study Your word. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Memory Verse

"Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed—and you know how crippled he was before. Faith in Jesus' name has healed him before your very eyes. (Acts 3:16 NLT)

Lesson

We have been studying about the very beginning of the Christian church. Last week our lesson started with only 120 believers gathered in the upper room, waiting for the promise of the Father. Then we learned about that after God sent the Holy Spirit with a violent wind and tongues of fire, 3,000 more people became believers.

Those first Christians continued to meet together to learn about Jesus. They did life together, getting meals, having communion and praying with each other. And God worked wonders among them.

The Jews at that time were required to go to the Temple to pray three times a day: 9 a.m., noon, and 3 p.m. One afternoon Peter and John went to the Temple to pray and they came upon a poor lame man who had never been able to walk. He was sitting outside the Temple begging people for money.

Acts 3:1-2

Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service. (2) As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple.

We find out in chapter 4 this poor lame beggar was 40 years old (see Acts 4:22). So, every day for 40 years his friends carried him to the gate, which was called Beautiful.

Ask: Why do you think the Temple gate a good location for begging? (Three times a day, everyone came through that gate to pray. Many people thought that giving money to the poor would gain them favor with God. Some people wanted to be seen by others giving to this poor lame beggar.)

When the man saw Peter and John coming to the Temple, he asked them for money. [**Note:** "Alms" is money.]

Acts 3:3-4

When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money. (4) Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, "Look at us!"

When you pass a homeless person, do you look into their eyes? Not many people will do that; it makes them uncomfortable. Usually, people look away from someone in need. It says that Peter and John looked at him intently. And this got the man's attention.

To have someone look into his eyes probably made the man excited; he probably thought for sure they were going to give him money.

In fact, Peter and John did have something to give this lame man.

Acts 3:5-6

The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. (6) But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!"

The crippled man asked for money in order to survive. It was his only way to make money to pay for food.

Ask: Do you think the man was disappointed when Peter and John said they didn't have any money to give him?

Peter gave him something much better than money — the use of his legs! Peter was saying if he believed in Jesus, he could have a whole new life. Only God has that kind of power.

We often ask God to solve a small problem, but he wants to give us a whole new life and help for all our problems. When you ask God for something, don't be surprised when instead of giving you what you want; He gives you what you really need.

Peter reached his right hand out to the man and he took it.

Acts 3:7-8

Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. (8) He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them.

As Peter raised the man up, he immediately felt strength in his feet and ankles. He had never stood up in his entire life. As he felt strength in his ankles and feet, he took a step. Then another. He was able to walk immediately even though he had never learned how. This was a miracle! A miracle is something that only God can do.

The man was so excited he couldn't stand still! He didn't want to just walk, he leaped up and went into the Temple with Peter and John walking, leaping, and praising God! As he leaped around, he shouted, "Praise God! Praise God!" He was so thankful!

And people were amazed to see him...

Acts 3:9-10

All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God. (10) When they realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded!

The people couldn't believe their eyes! They looked at Peter as though it was by his power that this man was healed. But Peter gave the honor to God.

Acts 3:11-15

They all rushed out in amazement to Solomon's Colonnade, where the man was holding tightly to Peter and John. (12) Peter saw his opportunity and addressed the crowd. "People of Israel," he said, "what is so surprising about this? And why stare at us as though we had made this man walk by our own power or godliness? (13) For it is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of all our ancestors—who has brought glory to his servant Jesus by doing this. This is the same Jesus whom you handed over and rejected before Pilate, despite Pilate's decision to release him. (14) You rejected this holy, righteous one and instead demanded the release of a murderer. (15) You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. And we are witnesses of this fact!

Peter had been the one who spoke to the lame man and took his hand to help him up. It would be easy for him to take credit for what God had done. But he knew that the healing came through the power

of the Holy Spirit, not his own. Peter wanted to give the honor and praise to whom it was due: God.

Ask: Do you think it might have been tempting for Peter to want people to think it was by his own power the man was healed? When you do something well, are you tempted to take the credit for it? Remember to give honor to God for what He does in your life.

Peter wanted to make it clear that it was Jesus, not himself, who healed the crippled man.

Acts 3:16

“Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed—and you know how crippled he was before. Faith in Jesus’ name has healed him before your very eyes.

By using Jesus’ name, Peter showed who gave him the authority and power to heal.

Jesus has power to help you with whatever you need. That’s why we end our prayers by saying, *“In Jesus Name we pray.”* It is because we believe that Jesus has power to hear and answer our prayers.

But Jesus’ name is not to be used as magic — it must be used in faith. When we pray in Jesus’ name, we must remember that it is Christ himself, not merely the sound of his name, who gives our prayers their power.

Peter told the people in the crowd that Jesus has the power to forgive their sins:

Acts 3:19

Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away.

Like this poor lame beggar, without Christ, you are disabled, too. You are unable to save yourself. But when you place your faith in Jesus, He heals you spiritually so that you are born again to a whole new life.

The power of the Holy Spirit healed that man and His power can give you a whole new life of victory, too.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, we want to give You all the glory and honor that’s due Your name. As we sit here quietly for a moment, fill our hearts and minds with the wonder of You! You are so great and awesome and loving and kind. We love You, Lord. Thank You for all the great and wonderful things You’ve done in my life. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

CRAFT CORNER

Take Home Activity: Prepare a card for each child to fill in during the week:

**Give honor to God for what He does in your life
(Revelation 4:11)**

What is one thing God did for you this week?

How did you give honor to God?

Next week any child that wants to, can honor God by sharing what God did for them.

GAME CENTER

Allow the children to act out this story using dress up clothes.

Pop-The-Question —

Write the review questions on separate slips of paper and insert them into balloons. Blow them up. Let the children pop a balloon, one at a time, and answer the question. Small children may wish to have someone else pop their balloon for them.

Variations:

- Insert numbers that correspond to a list of questions instead of the questions.
- Put the game point values on slips of paper in the balloon. So, for every right answer they can pop a balloon and see what points their team gets.
- Each child gets a chance to throw a ball into a basketball hoop. For making a basket, the child gets to choose a balloon, pop it and try to answer the question. His team gets 50 points for every right answer.

Or, use the following questions in another game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. What time did Peter and John go to the Temple? (The hour of prayer; 3 p.m.)
2. Why was the hour of prayer a good time for the crippled man to beg for money? (Many were coming to the Temple at that time.)
3. Why was the crippled man carried to the temple? (To beg money.)
4. What are “alms”? (Money or goods given to the poor)
5. What was the name of the place they sat the cripple every day? (The beautiful gate.)
6. Why was the Temple gate a good location for begging? (Sitting at the Temple gate was a good location to beg because many people thought that giving money to the poor would gain them favor with God. Some people wanted to be seen by others giving to this poor lame beggar.)
7. Is what the man wanted, what he needed most? What did the man at the Beautiful Gate need most: money or the physical healing of his legs? (Legs!)
8. What did the lame man think when Peter and John looked into his eyes? (That he would probably get something from them.)
9. How was the crippled man healed? (By faith in the Name of Jesus.)
10. What was the lame man’s reaction after he was healed? (He jumped up and praised God.)
11. Do you think it might have been tempting for Peter to want people to think it was by his own power the man was healed?
12. How did people respond to the lame man’s enthusiastic reaction to his healing? (They were amazed and awed by God’s power.)
13. Why do you end your prayers with the phrase, “*In the name of Jesus. Amen?*” Does that actually do any good? (It is Christ himself, not merely the sound of his name, who gives our prayers their power.)
14. What did Peter tell the crowd they needed to do so they could be forgiven of their sins? (Repent and turn to God.)
15. What do you need God’s power to do this week? (Obey parents/teachers, tell others about Jesus, be kind, read Bible and Pray.)